

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-8. (Canceled)

9. (previously presented): A method of regenerating a pressing mold having a molding surface, said molding surface having a film containing carbon which is deteriorated by pressing, comprising:

removing the deteriorated film by etching with plasma of a gas containing hydrogen at a base plate temperature from room temperature to 300 °C; and
forming a film containing carbon on the molding surface.

10. (previously presented): The method of Claim 9 wherein the gas contains hydrogen and argon.

11. (previously presented): The method of Claim 9 further comprising cleansing the molding surface with a solution of an acid or an alkali prior to the removing of the film.

12. (previously presented): A method of regenerating a pressing mold having a molding surface, said molding surface having a film containing carbon which is deteriorated by pressing, comprising:

removing the deteriorated film by a treatment with ozone; and

forming a film containing carbon on the molding surface.

13. (previously presented): The method of Claim 12 wherein the ozone is generated by ultra-violet radiation.

14. (previously presented): The method of Claim 13 wherein the pressing mold is heated to 100°C to 600°C when the treatment is carried out.

15. (previously presented): The method of Claim 13 further comprising cleansing the molding surface with a solution of an acid or an alkali prior to the removing of the film.

16. (previously presented): A method of manufacturing, an optical glass element with a pressing, mold, said pressing mold having, a molding surface comprising a film containing carbon, comprising:

press molding a heat-softened glass material with the pressing mold;

cooling the press molded glass material in the pressing mold; and

taking out the press molded glass material from the pressing mold,

wherein the pressing mold is regenerated by removing a film containing carbon by etching with plasma of a gas containing hydrogen, and forming the film containing carbon on the molding surface.

17. (previously presented): The method of Claim 16 wherein the gas contains

hydrogen and argon.

18. (previously presented): The method of Claim 16 wherein the molding surface is cleansed with a solution of an acid or an alkali prior to the removing of the film.

19. (previously presented): A method of manufacturing an optical glass element with a pressing mold, said pressing mold having a molding surface comprising a film containing carbon, comprising:

press molding a heat-softened glass material with the pressing mold;

cooling the press molded glass material in the pressing mold; and

taking out the press molded glass material from the pressing mold,

wherein the pressing mold is regenerated by removing a film containing carbon by a treatment with ozone, and forming the film containing carbon on the molding surface.

20. (previously presented): The method of Claim 19 wherein the ozone is generated by ultra-violet radiation.

21. (previously presented): The method of Claim 19 wherein the pressing mold is heated to 100°C to 600°C when the treatment is carried out.

22. (previously presented): The method of Claim 19 wherein the molding surface is cleansed with a solution of an acid or an alkali prior to the removing of the film.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/658,467

Attorney Docket Q91042

23. (previously presented): The method of Claim 16 wherein the molding surface comprises a surface roughness of 20 nm or less in terms of Rmax.

24. (previously presented): The method of Claim 16 wherein the optical element comprising phosphate glass, fluorophosphate, or borate glass.

25. (new): The method of Claim 9, wherein a material for the mold is selected from the group consisting of SiC, WC, TiC, TaC, WC-Co alloy, and stainless steel.

26. (new): The method of Claim 12, wherein a material for the mold is selected from the group consisting of SiC, WC, TiC, TaC, WC-Co alloy, and stainless steel.

27. (new): The method of Claim 16, wherein a material for the mold is selected from the group consisting of SiC, WC, TiC, TaC, WC-Co alloy, and stainless steel.

28. (new): The method of Claim 19, wherein a material for the mold is selected from the group consisting of SiC, WC, TiC, TaC, WC-Co alloy, and stainless steel.